

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Spoilage Claims

The investigation of unusual or abnormal spoilage claims is one of the services of the Research Laboratory available to all members of the Association. Printed forms for application for these investigations have been prepared and members should have some of these available. These forms, filled out by the canner, include the information the Laboratory has found essential in making these investigations.

Investigations are made by the regular staff of the laboratory and as far as possible are made in connection with other trips. In order that the work may be planned to give as prompt service as possible, the request for the investigation should be made as soon as the spoilage claim is received from the distributor.

This service is discussed fully in Laboratory Circular 14-L, a copy of which will be sent upon request to any member not having one in his files.

Navy to Buy Canned Raisins and Sauerkraut

The Navy Department is asking for bids, to be opened November 27, on canned raisins (schedule 9871) to be delivered in varying amounts at each of the Government Navy Yards, or an alternate bid for delivering the entire scheduled amount (317,000 pounds) at Mare Island, California.

The Department is also asking for bids on canned sauerkraut (Schedule 9879) to be opened November 27, for delivery

as follows: 75,000 pounds at Boston, 80,000 pounds at Brooklyn, 33,000 pounds at Philadelphia, 129,000 pounds at Hampton Roads, 208,000 pounds at Mare Island, and 65,000 pounds at Puget Sound.

Copies of the schedules on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Canadian Tariff Hearing on Sardines and Herring

The Canadian Advisory Board in Tariff and Taxation has announced that hearings will be held in Ottawa on November 6 and 7 for consideration of proposed changes in duties and taxes, among which is a proposal to increase the duty on sardines and herring. The hearing on this proposal is scheduled for November 6.

Truck Crop Markets

A slowing-down process occurred in the fruit and vegetable market during the week ended October 17, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Prices were mostly lower than the week before, partly as a result of recent liberal arrivals. With the exception of apples, grapes, and citrus fruit, carlot movement of nearly all lines decreased. Output of grapes and apples each exceeded 10,000 cars, and combined forwardings of 29 leading products reached the season's highest total of 36,000 cars.

Cabbage took a slump in price. Total forwardings decreased slightly to 1,325 cars. Wisconsin shipped 520, compared with 430 during the corresponding week last season, but New York's 340 cars were few in comparison to the 850 of a year ago.

Cold-storage stocks of apples on October 1 were nearly 40 per cent greater than a year ago and one-third heavier than the five-year average. Combined shipments of this fruit increased further to 10,845 cars for the week; this is 2,500 more than the corresponding record in 1927. Most of the increase last week was in eastern sections; their total was 5,760 cars, as against 3,900 last year.

The high quality of this year's crop in Virginia and Maryland is also causing shipments from these States to exceed earlier expectations. There is about an average supply of apples in the country as a whole, and the crop is evenly distributed.

Sweet potatoes were selling lower in most markets. Carlot movement also decreased to 680 cars. Yields are running below

expectations both in the Atlantic Coast States, where rains have been excessive, and in the southwest, where some of the important producing sections have suffered from drought. The crop is estimated at 78,512,000, which is 3,106,000 bushels less than the forecast of a month ago and 15,416,000 below the large crop of last year.

California grape movement totaled 8,400 cars and was heavier than during the corresponding week last season. New York shipped more than 1,000 cars, Michigan 460, and Pennsylvania 270, helping to make a grand total of 10,330 cars. Prices were generally lower. The grape crop, estimated at 2,605,000 tons, is above production in any year prior to 1927, and is about equal to what last year's crop would have been if all of the California crop had been harvested.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Oct. 7-13 1928	Sept. 30 Oct. 6 1928	Oct. 9-15 1927	Total this season to Oct. 13	Total last season to Oct. 15	Total last season
Apples, total	10,846	9,252	8,319	45,835	33,845	89,073
Eastern	5,763	4,666	3,925	23,793	19,801	44,103
Western	5,083	4,586	4,394	20,130	14,044	48,670
A-paragus	3	0	1	2,839	2,126	3,132
Cabbage	1,322	1,457	1,381	23,366	23,817	39,067
Carrots:						
1928 season	95	89	(a)	164	(a)	5,641
1928 season	116	94	(a)	5,841	(a)	6,852
Cauliflower	165	147	162	1,095	1,130	9,056
Green peas	30	23	26	4,390	4,082	4,147
Mixed deciduous fruits.....	75	103	76	6,054	3,180	3,408
Mixed vegetables	385	326	387	28,107	29,871	33,050
Peaches	190	234	27	36,287	41,703	41,714
Pears	727	932	623	21,037	16,664	18,744
Peppers	57	91	124	3,243	2,521	3,824
Plums and prunes	46	111	25	7,096	5,968	5,968
Spinach	38	21	69	10,106	9,357	9,655
String beans	87	24	83	6,146	5,851	6,491
Tomatoes	558	693	811	27,801	30,250	33,663

(a) Unavailable

Cold Storage Holdings

Cold storage holdings of fruits in the United States as of October 1, as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, were as follows:

	Oct. 1, 1928	Oct. 1, 1927	Oct. 1, 5-year average
Apples:			
Barrels	630,000	449,000	576,000
Boxes	1,513,000	1,643,000	1,112,000
Bushel baskets	932,000	724,000	406,000
Pears:			
Barrels	34,000	61,000
Boxes	1,947,000	1,267,000
Frozen and preserved fruit (pounds)	78,798,000	57,990,000

Business Conditions

Measured by the volume of check payments, business during the week ended October 13, though showing a decline from the previous week, was considerably larger than in the corre-

sponding period of 1927, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. Activity in steel plants was not only greater than at any time this year but showed a considerable advance over the corresponding period of 1927. The general index of wholesale prices averaged higher than in either the previous week or the same week of 1927.

New building awards during the week showed a lower daily average than in the previous week but were higher than in the corresponding period of last year. Interest rates for time funds showed no change from the preceding week but were higher than last year. Call-loan rates, however, averaged lower than in the previous week but were higher than a year ago. Business failures were less numerous than in the preceding week but showed an increase over a year ago. Freight car loadings for the latest available week were larger than a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended October 6	1,186,598	473,624	271,193	441,781
Preceding week	1,196,768	480,498	270,198	446,082
Corresponding week, 1927	1,102,994	424,001	272,096	406,897
Corresponding week, 1926	1,174,928	459,732	270,864	444,332

Employment Conditions in September

Employment in manufacturing industries increased 1.5 per cent in September as compared with August, and pay-roll totals increased 1.3 per cent, according to a report issued by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. An upward trend of employment in September is customary, while pay-roll totals do not always increase in proportion, being somewhat affected by the Labor Day closing.

While employment in September, 1928, was 0.8 per cent below the level of employment in September, 1927, it was at a higher level than at any time since October, 1927. Pay-roll totals were 1.4 per cent greater in September, 1928, than in September, 1927, and also greater than at any time since June, 1927.

Retail Trade in September

Sales of 503 reporting retail stores in September were 6 per cent larger than in the same month of last year, according to preliminary figures received by the Federal Reserve system. Increases from last year were shown by 314 firms and decreases by 189 firms. September of this year contained one less business day and one more Saturday than September, 1927.

Trend of Retail and Wholesale Prices

The retail food index issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor shows for September 15, 1928, an increase of about $2\frac{1}{3}$ per cent since August 15, 1928; and an increase of nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent since September 15, 1927.

Of the canned foods included in this index, evaporated milk and canned peas increased 1 per cent between August 15 and September 15; canned red salmon decreased 3 per cent, and baked beans, canned corn and canned tomatoes showed no change.

Continued upward movement of wholesale prices is shown for September by the Bureau's weighted index number, computed on prices in 1926 as the base and including 550 commodities or price series. The index stood at 100.1 for September compared with 98.9 for August, an increase of nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Compared with September, 1927, with an index number of 96.5, the increase is nearly $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Foods increased in average prices, due to the continued upward movement of butter, eggs, fresh and cured meats, and potatoes.

National Fish Week in Canada

National Fish Week will be held throughout Canada from October 29 to November 3. The organization has adopted as a slogan "Eat More Fish." In previous years the occasion was observed by one day. This will be the first time that a week has been set aside for this event.

Referendum Approves Adequate Research Appropriations

In the referendum on agriculture which has just been completed by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the vote of the constituent members of the Chamber places it on record in favor of adequate federal appropriations for economic and scientific research by the Department of Agriculture. This was one of seven propositions with respect to agriculture which were submitted to the Chamber's members for approval. The member organizations are entitled to from 1 to 10 votes each, based on the size of their own memberships, and on the recommendation with regard to appropriations for research there were 2,866 votes in favor and 74 votes against.

The other propositions submitted, all of which were approved, relate to coordination of land reclamation and reforestation policies; postponement of reclamation projects until need

of additional production is demonstrated; advocacy of reasonable tariff protection for agriculture; support of cooperative marketing; development of existing facilities for agricultural credit and creation of a Federal Farm Board.

Rate Decision on Cans and Canned Foods

In the case (Docket 19646) involving rates on tin cans in carloads from Chicago to Watertown and Winsted, Minn., and rates on canned foods in carloads from Watertown and Winsted to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other California points, the Interstate Commerce Commission has issued a decision differing somewhat from the recommendations of the Commission's examiner as reported in the Information Letter for November 26, 1927.

The Commission finds that the rates charged on tin cans from Chicago to Watertown and Winsted were not unreasonable as to past shipments, but that they are and for the future will be unreasonable to the extent that they exceed or may exceed 45 cents, minimum 25,000 pounds. The new rates are required to be established by December 1.

The rates and minimum weights assailed on canned foods from Watertown and Winsted to San Francisco, Los Angeles and other points in California taking the same rates were found not unreasonable, and the Commission states that the establishment of group D rates as proposed by the defendant carriers will remove any undue prejudice which may exist.

Strict Enforcement of French Marking Requirements

According to information received from the American Trade Commissioner at Paris, asparagus packed in cans on which the necessary mark of origin is indicated through a metallic plaque soldered to the can is not admissible into France. The indication of the origin required by the law must be stamped on the cans themselves, and the director of customs states that he will request the inspectors at the ports to see that the law is strictly complied with, and to reject canned food of which the country of origin is indicated by a plaque soldered to the can instead of in the manner prescribed by law.

Reduction in Refrigeration Charges Recommended

A reduction of refrigeration charges on citrus and other fruits, melons, vegetables and berries from Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Virginia, to destinations through-

out the Eastern United States is recommended to the Interstate Commerce Commission in a proposed report made public on October 17. The recommendations resulted from an investigation instituted by the Commission into the character, extent and cost of refrigeration service on these products.

California Lima Bean Prospects

The probable yield of lima beans in California is placed at about 11.1 bags per acre, according to the California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service, which states in its October 10 report that the outlook is for 920,000 bags of "large" and 314,000 bags of "small" Limas for 1928.

Final Figures on California Cling Peach Crop

The final report on the California peach pack shows that the pack totaled 14,811,606 cases. The final figures for the different varieties are as follows: Tuscans, 2,652,447; Midsummers, 5,137,448; Phillips, 6,845,780; Miscellaneous, 175,931.

Pineapple Canning in Guatemala

According to a report from the American Consul at Guatemala City, the Guatemala Plantations, Ltd., which is experimenting with the production and canning of pineapples, has commenced planting on a small scale. Three hundred cases have already been shipped to Europe. Production will be increased gradually.

Drawback Regulations Amended

The Bureau of Customs has just announced amendment of Article 960 of the Customs Regulations of 1923 to conform to a recent court decision holding that the Secretary of the Treasury is without authority to fix a time limit for the identification of imported merchandise used in the manufacture of articles for export under the drawback law.

Tax Deduction for Crop Loss

The Board of Tax Appeals has handed down a decision supporting a taxpayer's claim that he is entitled to a deduction for losses suffered by overflow and seepage of water from natural causes where the overflow and seepage resulted in destruction of a planted crop. The taxpayer is a grower of cranberries and he made the claim, which was disallowed by the taxing authori-

ties, that he should have deduction of the cost of preparation of the ground and the planting.

In its decision the Board cited earlier cases holding that where orchards and vineyards are attacked by disease and are destroyed to prevent further spread thereof, the cost of bringing them to productivity was a capital expenditure and the loss caused by the loss and destruction was deductible for income purposes.

Australia's Fruit Pack in 1927-28

Australia is having difficulty in disposing of the especially heavy fruit harvest of the 1927-28 season, according to the American Consulate at Melbourne, which has furnished the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce with the following figures on the 1927-28 production of canned apricots, peaches and pears, based on information supplied by the Australian Fruit Cannery Association:

Export:	Apricots Dozens	Peaches Dozens	Pears Dozens
Choice 30 oz.	31,976	3,066	23,191
Choice 16 oz.	3,006	37
Standard 30 oz.	160,666	633,337	231,481
Standard 16 oz.	10,633	44,360	72,333
New Zealand	116,213	374,339	107,923
Local:			
30 oz.	203,430	811,603	332,134
16 oz.	43,908	190,404	72,630
Total	323,850	2,083,307	861,731

Systematic distribution is being urged, and special weeks have been inaugurated for the advertising and "boosting" of apples and canned fruits. The canned fruits industry is also faced with the problem of disposing of a large surplus of canned fruits, which will have to be sold in the overseas markets at prices lower than those obtained in Australia.

National Chain Store Grocers Association Reorganizes

At its eighth annual convention, held in Memphis the week of October 8, the National Chain Store Grocers Association was reorganized, its name changed, and its qualifications for membership modified so as to provide for the admittance of chains other than those in the grocery business.

The President of the new National Chain Store Association is Edward G. Yonkers, President of the Sanitary Grocery Company of Washington, D. C. The resignation of Secretary Alfred H. Beckmann was accepted, and a new secretary in his place will be selected by the Executive Committee of the Association.